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Approved For Release 2001/03/02 $\stackrel{\Gamma}{:}$ CIA-RDP70T00666R000100010023-9

342 Madison Avenue New York 17, New York 29 December '53

5-0480

Dear Mr. Dulles:

While journeying from Zurich to Salzburg last week I was annoyed on boarding the sleeping car that no reservation had been made for me. The car was full of holiday travellers and for awhile it looked like I'd sleep in the aisle. One room was singly occupied and the occupant, overhearing my loud protests to the porter, volunteered to let me share his room. I accepted, thanked him, (in French) and was getting ready for bed when he introduced himself, S.Shibaev, Soviet delegate to the international tin conferences just closed at Geneva. At first I felt somewhat uncomfortable but his ready hospitality, with my near exhaustion, decided me to accept.

I asked him how he felt the tin conference resulted and his comment was that for the Americans it had resulted well, but for purposes of the conference it had not accomplished much. I then asked him how the "new man" was doing in Moscow, referring to Malenkov. He replied that Malenkov was no new man that he'd been around for years, and was doing very well. "Russia" he said grimly, "is fortunate to have a great many competent men ready to step into the breach when needed." a somewhat orthodox Soviet statement.

He then volunteered that Eisenhower's atomic control speech "held great promise for East and West understanding." At first, he said, they had not got that impression of it but upon study saw a chance for US-Soviet rapprochement. (I seem to recall that the Moscow dispatches reflected this reversal of opinion.) Shibaev expressed the conviction that there would be easening of the tension between the East and West, but whether that too was official thinking or his own I could only guess. He told me that as a young man he had worked in the Pacific northwest, and made many friends in the United States. He expressed the belief that among the "common people" the world over there was a great bond of friend-I told him I got the impression from reading Soviet propaganda that the Soviets think they invented the common people, that our government had expressed greater concern for the little man, in terms of his economic and social wants, than had any government. Shibaev answered that this may have been true in Abraham Lincoln's time but was not true now. We turned out the light on that one. During the night of course there were the usual passport controls and the expression on the faces of some of them when they inspected Soviet diplomatic and US passports in the same drawing room was amusing to watch. The next morning I tried to get him to take along a box of Yardley soap to his wife as a gift but he refused. We breakfast and talked of timber conservation. In Russia, despite great forest resources, there is great need for conservation, especially of timber stands near the great centers, the cost of long hauls from Siberia making it uneconomical to market it. I inquired as to the probable disposition of a fally of Russians we had rescued from the Nazis in Germany during the war, and he took their names and addresses (Odessa) as best I could remember them and promised to let me hear. In all he could not have been more hospitable and my thanks to him were genuine and sincere.

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DD/P

ly, /s/ Albin Dearing (Ex It.Col. UN Command - Tokyo)